

CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application. Where claims have been amended and/or canceled, such amendments and/or cancellations are done without prejudice and/or waiver and/or disclaimer to the claimed and/or disclosed subject matter, and the applicant and/or assignee reserves the right to claim this subject matter and/or other disclosed subject matter in a continuing application.

156. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling copyrights of digital data, comprising:
supplying to a user at least one of a plurality of utilization permit keys that corresponds only to at least one of different types of uses of the digital data requested by the user, each of the utilization permit keys permitting only the corresponding at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data; and
decrypting encrypted digital data using the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys for performance of only the requested use of the digital data.

157. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 156, wherein the different types of uses of digital data include display, edit, storage, copy, and or transfer, or combinations thereof.

158. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, wherein the plurality of utilization permit keys include a display permit key permitting only display of the digital data, an edit permit key permitting only display and editing of the digital data, a storage permit key permitting only storage of the digital data, a copy permit key permitting only copying of the digital data, and a transfer permit key permitting only transferring of the digital data.

159. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, wherein a copyright control program ensures said decrypting is for performance of only the requested use of the digital data.

160. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, further comprising displaying a copyright control message by a copyright control program when the user attempts one of the different types of uses of the digital data different from the requested use of the digital data.

161. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the digital data is used.

162. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys is used for decryption of the encrypted digital data for the requested use of the digital data.

163. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, further comprising maintaining, by copyright control program, copyright information on the digital data.

164. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 163, wherein the copyright information includes history information on authorship.

165. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 159 to 163, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization keys.

166. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 159 to 163, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the encrypted digital data.

167. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 156, wherein the database includes a key control center for said maintaining of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

168. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 167, further comprising supplying the copyright control program from the key control center to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

169. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling copyrights of digital data, comprising:
supplying to a user at least one of a plurality of utilization permit keys that corresponds to only at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data requested by the user including display, edit, copy, storage, and transfer, each of the utilization permit keys permitting only the corresponding at least one of the different types of uses of the digital data;

decrypting encrypted digital data using the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys only when the requested use is display or edit; and

performing only the requested use of the digital data based on the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

170. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, further comprising encrypting the decrypted digital data again after performance of the requested use, when the requested use is display or edit.

171. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, wherein the plurality of utilization permit keys include a display permit key permitting only display of the digital data, an edit permit key permitting only display and editing of the digital data, a storage permit key permitting only storage of the digital data, a copy permit key permitting only copying of the digital data, and a transfer permit key permitting only transferring of the digital data.

172. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, wherein a copyright control program ensures said step of performing is only of the requested use of the digital data.

173. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, further comprising displaying a copyright control message by a copyright control program when the user attempts one of the different types of uses of the digital data different from the requested use of the digital data.

174. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the digital data is used.

175. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, further comprising limiting, by a copyright control program, a number of times the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys is used for decryption of the encrypted digital data.

176. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, further comprising maintaining, by a copyright control program, copyright information on the digital data.

177. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 176, wherein the copyright information includes history information on authorship.

178. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 172 to 176, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

179. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 172 to 176, further comprising supplying the copyright control program to the user with the encrypted digital data.

180. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 169, wherein the database includes a key control center for said maintaining of the plurality of utilization permit keys.

181. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 180, further comprising supplying the copyright control program from the key control center to the user with the at least one of the plurality of utilization permit keys.